

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 1/15/2015

GAIN Report Number: KS1501

Korea - Republic of

Post: Seoul

Korea fights to contain the spread of FMD

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

Approved By:

Kevin N. Smith

Prepared By:

Yong Keun Ban / Mark A. Myers

Report Highlights:

The Korean government is responding to several recent cases of FMD in swine and cattle in order to contain the spread of the disease. Vaccination efforts and culling of affected animals seems to have proven effective at controlling the spread of the disease. The total meat supply has not been impacted by these efforts.

| General Information:

The Korean government has been fighting to contain the spread of foot and mouth disease (FMD) with outbreaks occurring since December 3, 2014. Although there were three isolated cases between July 23 and August 6, 2014, the FMD case that was reported on December 3, 2014 has increased to 12 cases as of January 13, 2014. It has impacted 50 farms, of which one is a cattle farm with the remainder being swine farms. The Korean government has culled a total of 43,312 head of swine and one cow on the impacted farms.

The Korean government policy to vaccinate the livestock farms against FMD since 2011 seems to be preventing widespread outbreaks of the disease. The government presumes that the one bovine case found to be positive was due to the fact that the vaccinated animal had not yet formed an antibody against FMD. This is why only one cow was culled rather than the whole farm. The culling of infected swine farms is also being conducted not on a farm basis, but on a barn or herd basis depending upon the situation within the infected farm. Given that the total swine inventory as of December 1, 2014 was 10,090,000 head and for cattle 3,190,000 head, the culling has not made any significant impact on the total meat supply. Also, as Korean consumers are well educated about FMD, market demand has not declined for pork or beef due to the outbreak.

Post will continue to monitor the situation and provide an update report if the FMD situation worsens and expands, but for now, vaccinations and the Korean government policy to cull infected animals appears to be effective in controlling the spread of the disease in Korea.